

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 17-22 have been amended. Claims 1-6, 8 and 12-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 17, 19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Zhang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,726,073. The rejection has been overcome by canceling claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer; and amending claims 17, 19 and 21 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 7 and the intervening claims on which claim 7 depends.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-4, 12-14, 18, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,726,073 in view of Green et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,531,867. The rejection has been overcome by canceling claims 2-4 and 12-14 without prejudice or disclaimer; and amending claims 18, 20 and 22 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 16 and the intervening claims on which claim 16 depends.

Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of these claims as being unpatentable over Zhang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,726,073 in view of Kikuchi, U.S. Patent No. 6,370,787.

Allowable Subject Matter

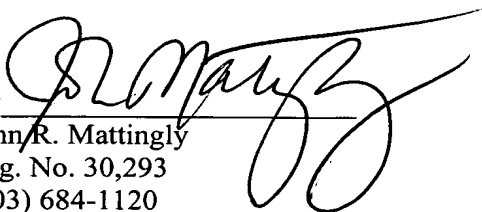
Claims 7, 9-11 and 16 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise found to be allowable. Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form and further amended to set forth that the claim is directed to the head carriage of the invention. Further, new claims 23 and 24 are patterned after claim 9, however are directed to the magnetic head tester and magnetic disk tester, respectively, of the invention. Claims 7 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer since the limitations of these claims have been incorporated into other claims as explained above. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to be directed to the same invention as set forth in claim 9, mainly the head carriage of the invention.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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JRM/so
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